

Amendments to the Specification:

Please add the following paragraph starting on page 7, line 16 preceding the caption "DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS":

Figure 3 is a schematic representation of a system 60 incorporating a circuit board 50 on which components 30 are mounted including all of of the components shown in Figure 1.

Please replace the previously amended paragraph on page 8 lines 15- 33 with the following amended paragraph:

The apparatus and method in accordance with present invention avoids the above-described problems by providing a different path for the transient arc. More specifically, as shown in Figure 1, a first metal trace 24 is placed under the first surface mounted resistor having end caps 14a, 14b and a third resistor having end caps 26a, 26b. A second metal trace 22 is placed under the second surface mounted resistor having end caps 18a, 18b. Each metal trace is preferably manufactured of the same conductive material as that used in the rest of the printed circuit board. Typically this will be copper although aluminum and other conductive materials may be used. Each metal trace 22, 24 is connected to ground or may be at some potential. It is only essential that the trace 22, 24 as well as connections to the trace 22, 24 be dimensioned and configured to enable the respective trace to dissipate transients without damage to any part of the circuit. In a preferred embodiment each trace 22, 24 is disposed approximately .01 inches from the pad of the resistor. This dimension is indicated as "X" in Figure 1 (4 instances). Accordingly, a transient will arc from the one of the end caps 14a, 14b on the first surface mounted resistor to the trace 24. It is imperative that the dimension X be greater smaller than the dimension t

(the height of the end cap 14a, 14b and essentially the height of the first surface mounted resistor 14). To provide an adequate margin of safety is preferable that the dimension X be ~~at least one half~~ less than the dimension t.”